

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 5 and 27.

Please amend claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 13, 14, 15, 19, 23, 24, 26, 29, 32, 33, 36, 39, 40, 42, 43, 45, 46, 48, 49, 50, 52, 54, and 55 as set forth below:

1.(Once Amended) A system for ordering a custom official postal stamp, comprising:

a central authorizing computer system for communicating with at least one remote ordering system over a communication network, said central authorizing computer system having a computer program for forwarding information to said at least one remote ordering system for allowing customizing of an official postal stamp by a user from said at least one remote ordering system wherein the user provides an image for incorporation as a part of said official postal stamp.

4.(Once Amended) A system according to claim 1 wherein said information includes instructions on how to modify an image for use on a postal stamp or for ordering said customized official postal stamp.

6.(Once Amended) A system according to claim 1 wherein said information includes a list of acceptable criteria for image content of images that can be used on said custom official postal stamp.

7.(Once Amended) A system according to claim 1 wherein said information includes a selection menu for allowing selection of a prestored image for use on said custom official postal stamp .

13.(Once Amended) A system according to claim 9 wherein said customizing of said prestored image further includes the providing of text on said custom official postal stamp.

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14.(Once Amended) A system according to claim 9 wherein said customizing of said custom image further includes the providing of text on said custom official postal stamp.

15.(Once Amended) A system according to claim 1 wherein said information further includes providing a selection of a denomination from a predefined schedule of postal rates for said custom official postal stamp.

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19.(Once Amended) A system according to claim 18 wherein said order form includes means for providing payment for said custom official postal stamp.

23.(Once Amended) A system according to claim 22 wherein said receipt includes one or more of the following: customer order identification, order information, facsimile of the image to be used on the custom official postal stamp.

A 22
24.(Once Amended) A system according to claim 1 wherein said computer program further comprises means for notifying said remote ordering system that the image submitted by said user has been authorized for use on said custom official postal stamp.

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26.(Once Amended) A system according to claim 1 further comprising a printing device for printing said custom official postal stamp by said authorizing computer system.

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29.(Once Amended) A system according to claim 6 further comprising means for manipulation of the image for use on said official postal stamp.

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32.(Once Amended) A method for ordering a custom official postal stamp having a customized image thereon, comprising the steps of:

a) providing a central authorizing computer system for communication with at least one remote ordering system over a communication network; and

b) providing said central authorizing computer system with a computer program for providing information to said at least one remote ordering system for allowing ordering of a custom official postal stamp by a user from said at least one remote ordering system wherein the user provides an image for incorporation as a part of said official postal stamp.

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33.(Once Amended) A method according to claim 32 further comprising the step of:

ordering of said custom official postal stamp at said at least one remote ordering system based on instructions and selections provided by central authorizing computer system.

Q26
36.(Once Amended) A method according to claim 35 wherein said electronic receipt includes one or more of the following: customer order identification, order information, facsimile of the image to be used on the customized official postal stamp.

39.(Once Amended) A method according to claim 38 further comprising the step of:

obtaining approval to use said image on said custom official postal stamp from said central authorizing computer system.

Q27
40.(Once Amended) A method according to claim 34 further comprising the step of:

printing said custom official postal stamp in accordance with said electronic order form after obtaining approval from said central authorizing computer system.

Q28
42.(Once Amended) A computer software product for use in ordering custom official postal stamp, comprising a computer readable storage

medium having a computer program for use in a central authorizing computer system capable of communication with at least one remote ordering system over a communication network, said computer software product which when loaded into authorizing computer system causes the authorizing computer system to perform the step of:

providing said central authorizing computer system with a computer program for forwarding information to said at least one remote ordering system for allowing ordering of custom official postal stamp by a user from said at least one remote ordering system wherein the user provides an image for incorporation as a part of said official postal stamp.

Q28 43.(Once Amended) A computer software product according to claim 42 wherein the computer software product further causes the computer to perform the additional step of:

ordering of said custom official postal stamp at said at least one remote ordering system based on instructions and selections provided by central authorizing computer system. B

A29 45.(Once Amended) A computer software product according to claim 42 wherein the computer software product further causes the computer to perform the additional step of:

allowing said remote computer system to customize images for use in custom official postal stamps.

A29 46.(Once Amended) A computer software product according to claim 44 wherein said electronic receipt includes one or more of the following: customer order/identification, order information, facsimile of the image to be used on the customized official postal stamp.

A30 48.(Once Amended) A computer software product according to claim 42 wherein the computer software product further causes the computer to perform the additional step of:

uploading a custom image from said remote ordering system to said central authorizing computer system in order to obtain approval to use said image on said customized official postal stamp.

49.(Once Amended) A system for ordering customized official postal stamp, comprising:

a central authorizing computer system for communicating with at least one remote ordering system over a communication network, said central authorizing computer system having a computer program for forwarding information to said at least one remote ordering system by a user for allowing custom modification of an image for use on customized official postal stamp.

50.(Once Amended) A system for customizing an official postal stamp, comprising:

a central authorizing computer system for communicating with at least one remote ordering system over a communication network, said central authorizing computer system having a computer program for forwarding information to said at least one remote ordering system for allowing customizing of an customized official postal stamp from said at least one remote ordering system, and means for manipulation of the image for use on said customized official postal stamp.

52.(Once Amended) A system for customizing an official postal stamp, comprising:

a central authorizing computer system for communicating with at least one remote ordering system over a communication network, said central authorizing computer system having a computer program for forwarding information to said at least one remote ordering system for allowing customizing of an official postal stamp by a user from said at least one remote ordering system, means for manipulation of the image by the user for incorporation on said official postal stamp and means for producing an order receipt for order of a postal stamp, said receipt having a identification bar code thereon.

54.(Once Amended) A system for customizing an official postal stamp, comprising:

a central authorizing computer system for communicating with at least one remote ordering system over a communication network, said central authorizing computer system having a computer program for forwarding information to said at least one remote ordering system for allowing customizing of an official postal stamp by a user from said at least one remote ordering system, said central authorizing computer system having at least one image provided by said user that can be used in a custom official postal stamp, means for manipulation or use of at least a portion of the prestored image for use on said custom official postal stamp.

55.(Once Amended) A system for customizing an official postal stamp, comprising:

a central authorizing computer system for communicating with at least one remote ordering system over a communication network, said central authorizing computer system having a computer program for forwarding information to said at least one remote ordering system for allowing a user to customize an official postal stamp from said at least one remote ordering system, said central authorizing computer system having at least one prestored image that can be used in a custom official postal stamp, means for using at least a portion of the prestored image for use on said custom official postal stamp thereby eliminating the need to obtain content approval before producing of said official postal stamp.